

# WINTER★SOLDIER



A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS



AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

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## KICK NIXON OUT

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A YEAR OF STRUGGLE \_\_\_\_\_ CENTERFOLD

# EDITORIAL

As the year 1973 draws to a close, it would be good to reflect on what has occurred during this time. 1973 was a year of great victories and growing resistance by oppressed people abroad and here at home. The Vietnamese people, with the help of an international movement, forced the US government to sign an agreement of peace. The peoples of Laos and Cambodia moved closer than ever to complete freedom and independence. The people of Guinea-Bissau declared themselves an independent nation and continue to push back Portuguese forces. And the people of America saw the defeat of government repression in Gainesville, and the rising tide of the peoples' demands for freedom represented by the rebellion at Wounded Knee.

However, as imperialism meets new defeats, the masters of finance and war will become more desperate as clearly seen by their role in the fascist coup in Chile. The brothers and sisters in the military face growing repression by the brass. The sisters and brothers in prison continue to be beaten when they demand basic human rights. The American people see their basic needs sit beyond the reach of their wallets. And the US government pours millions into "Law-Order" machines while its own criminal actions are bared.

1973 leaves us with a clear message VVAW/WSO must continue to grow. We must face all the machinations of imperialism with unity and strength. One person can do little. Two people can do more. Ten people can move walls. And the united effort of all the people can move mountains. VVAW/WSO will continue to fight, in the streets, in the schools, in the prisons, in the military, anywhere we can. We will make 1974 a year of unity and victory!

## UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

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## LAWTON- GARDNER

# TRIAL GOES TO THE JURY



The second trial of Gary Lawton (VVAW/WSO member) and Zurebu Gardner (both charged with the 1971 killing of 2 policemen) went to jury on Nov. 15th, but at press time the jury is still deliberating. Hopefully, this jury will make a definitive decision for acquittal, unlike the Indio jury which voted 9-3 for acquittal and forced a re-trial.

The past month has been a revealing one for our judicial system. After the DA had already delivered his closing remarks a month ago, the defense won the right to reopen the case in light of new evidence. The evidence consisted of the fact that Jonathan Cameron (government star witness) had been bribed to lie on the stand. This testimony regarding government pay-off of a witness was presented by 4 inmates of the Blythe Correction Institution.

Following this testimony, the trial again proceeded to closing remarks. The DA went first and his closing statement consisted of emotionalism, with a complete ignoring of the facts. Government witnesses had been proved to be liars on the stand, so the DA could not rely on the facts of the case to prove the guilt of Gary and Zurebu. The only facts Porst presented was that there were two dead white policemen and there were black men seen running away from the shootings. Apparently, the DA expected the jury to draw the conclusion that the two men on trial were naturally the guilty ones.

Keller (Lawton's attorney) then presented his remarks to the jury and began with the statement: "I have never been this nervous in a

closing argument but only because this case is so really personally offensive." Unlike the DA, Keller went on to deal with the facts of the case. The most important testimony was that of the five eyewitnesses to the shootings. Out of the five, four of them testified that the person they saw leaving the murder was definitely not Gary Lawton. The fifth eyewitness was Sgt. Carpenter (Riverside Police Dept.) who has known Gary for 8 years. Carpenter testified that he couldn't say one way or the other whether or not the man he saw was Gary. This major testimony by the eyewitnesses has without a doubt proven the innocence of Gary and Zurebu. In closing, Keller told the jury: "Gary Lawton isn't looking for your sympathy. He is not looking for anything except that which he has a right to and that which you promised to give him...and that is a fair and honest trial."

Though the atmosphere of this trial has been one permeated with racism and repression, the facts of the case have proven that Gary and Zurebu were not near the site of the shootings. The government has worked long and hard to frame these two brothers but we feel confident that their efforts will not succeed. If the jury is truly composed of honest people, there should be no doubt in their minds that what they have witnessed for the past six months has been a feeble attempt at frame-up.

Send the desperately needed funds to: Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee, P.O. Box 5154, San Bernardino, Cal.



# KICK NIXON OUT!



As the crisis surrounding President Nixon rages on, the question on the minds of all Americans today is -- will he be impeached? Increasingly, the vast majority of the American people are openly demanding that the crook be thrown out of office. While the courts and Congress focus on the comparatively minor crimes revealed through the Watergate scandal, the people must try Nixon for his crimes against humanity: the continuing war in Indochina, the Christmas bombings of Hanoi and Haiphong, complicity in ordering the fascist coup in Chile, the systematic robbery and impoverishment of 3rd World nations, and the domestic economic attack on the working people of the USA. More than the simple liar and thief that Nixon has been proven to be by Watergate, he must now be convicted for his larger crimes -- as the exploiter of the poor, mass murderer, and war criminal that he truly is.

Nixon is obviously in serious trouble -- he has gone too far this time! This has left his economic and political rivals impaled on the horns of a dilemma. On one hand, Nixon has messed-up so badly in the public's eye that he has discredited the

system. On the other hand, since they are also part of the system, they hesitate to actually impeach Nixon because of the dangerous discrediting that it would cause the system. This hesitation can be viewed in the acceptance by these rival forces of the so-called "energy crisis" and the recent phoney military alert called by Nixon during the Middle East War. These crises are purely diversionary tactics aimed at relieving the pressures that are mounting against President Nixon. The only point that the political and economic rivals of Nixon are in agreement on is that they must ultimately protect the system that has given both themselves and President Nixon special privilege.

The average American is not part of this privileged elite. And as such, is concerned not with protecting the vested interests of the rich, but rather with the day-to-day struggle of economic survival and living in this inflationary country. The American people agree that Nixon is a thief and a liar and must be kicked out of office.

It is important to understand exactly why we must impeach Nixon, for we realize that the system would not really be changed one iota by his removal. While it is not necessarily true that all politicians, as individuals, are crooked, taking bribes and graft as did Nixon and Agnew, the point is that the system is crooked to the core. The way things are run in the United States, the courts, the laws, the police are all set up to serve the interests of the few at the expense of the poor and working people of this country. Our government's military and foreign policy are similarly set up to aid US business interests as they systematically rob the people of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. While it is important to understand the minor crimes revealed through the Watergate scandal, these larger crimes are the ones that we must now force Nixon to stand accountable for. This is not to imply that these "minor" crimes don't provide us with more than enough ammunition to justify his removal from office. A listing of the more flagrant of these is very educational.

There is the ITT Scandal where former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst disclosed that Nixon stopped an anti-trust suit against ITT in return for some \$400,000 in campaign "contributions." There is the Town House Project, disclosing that Nixon's pimp, Charles Colson, collected some \$400 million through shady deals to finance the campaigns of Nixon hacks running for office. There is the \$100,000 campaign "contribution" given by Howard Hughes to Nixon's buddy, Bebe Rebozo, that ended up in Bebe's safety deposit box and was reluctantly returned only when things got too hot. There is the Dairy Deal, that Nixon tried to excuse away at his recent press conference, where import quotas and price ceilings on dairy products were altered and enabled the dairy industry to earn an additional \$500-\$700 million a year. In exchange for this, Nixon picked up a cool two million dollar campaign "contribution."

Perhaps one of the most galling scandals to the average American suffering under heavy tax burdens is the revelation that President Nixon, with an annual salary of \$200,000 only paid about \$800 on his personal income tax in 1970 and 1971. Nixon

(continued on page 14)



## US Bombing Cambodia - Saigon Begins New Offensive

# INDOCHINA WAR INTENSIFIES



The past year has seen major victories won by the peoples of Indochina in their struggle against U.S. imperialism for liberation and self-determination. The Jan. 27th Peace accords were signed only because the U.S. was forced to do so by the successful political and military struggle waged by the Indochinese. However, we cannot allow ourselves to believe that the war is over. All indications today point to the fact that the situation in Indochina has become very explosive and may result in a major escalation of U.S. aggression. Nixon still has the option of recommitting the full might of the U.S. military to the war and will undoubtedly do so if he feels he can get away with it.

In South Vietnam, the military situation has become increasingly tense in the past month, with major ground action occurring throughout the country. Thieu's forces have been bombing population centers under PRG control with incredible ferocity and continue trying to grab more land: attempting to seize or destroy areas under PRG control in direct violation of the cease fire agreements. In Binh Dinh Prov. alone, over 59 villages were completely destroyed since January. On Nov. 7th, PRG representative Ly VanSau said that "in the face of the increasingly flagrant violations of the ceasefire by the U.S. -Saigon administration, the repeated bombings deep in the areas that were already under PRG jurisdiction long before the Paris Accords, the forces of the Liberation Army cannot sit by with their arms crossed...

the order has been given to retaliate against each illegal armed attack of the enemy." The recent heavy fighting near Dak Song, Bu Prang and Bu Bong are a clear indication of this. Even as the fighting rages, the whole world watches in revulsion at the treatment of the more than 200,000 political prisoners held in Thieu's prisons. The torture, execution and criminal treatment of these prisoners is totally the responsibility of the U.S. govt. for without Washington's support, Thieu and his prisons would certainly not exist.

Cambodia, perhaps most of all, threatens to bring in the full weight of the Nixon war machine. At present, the Lon Nol regime in Phnom Penh finds its neck in a rapidly tightening noose. Liberation forces led by the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (GRUNC) and Prince Sihanouk now control over 90% of the land and 80% of the population. In the past 6 months alone, some 200,000 refugees have left the cities controlled by Lon Nol for the liberated zones. As nearly 60 nations now officially recognize GRUNC as opposed to Lon Nol, it is likely that the UN may oust the Phnom Penh regime and seat GRUNC. Mr. Thiounn Mumm, GRUNC Minister of Economics and Finance, recently stated that there would be "no compromise with the traitors of the Lon Nol regime." As much as Nixon would like to save the U.S. position with a "neutral third force," Mr. Mumm said that GRUNC is the "sole representative of the Cambodian peo-

ple; there will never be a third way. All Cambodians are taking up arms to fight for final victory."

Prince Sihanouk has repeatedly stated that the liberation forces will attack Phnom Penh in December as the rainy season ends and troop movements are possible. Realizing that this will undoubtedly destroy the Lon Nol regime, the U.S. must either reintroduce massive strategic air power, including B-52 carpet bombings, or get out of Cambodia for good. The response of the U.S. has been to concentrate its forces in Cambodia by strengthening the U.S. air bases in Thailand and keeping the 7th Fleet along the Cambodian coast. Also, despite the "bombing halt" of August 15th, the U.S. is continuing to bomb Cambodia with upwards of 20,000 tons of bombs a day. Daily reconnaissance and strafing flights are flown by all types of U.S. aircraft except B-52s, with U.S., Thai, and Saigon pilots. The whole world saw the proof of this continued U.S. bombing with the massive bombing of Kompong Chan on Sept. 16th. A repeat of the Christmas '72 bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong may be what Nixon is planning for Cambodia this December!

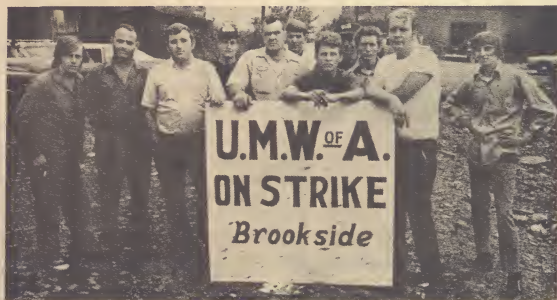
In the face of the very serious situation in Indochina, the responsibilities of the American people are dramatically increased. We must act now! We cannot permit the U.S. to continue to maintain the criminal Lon Nol regime by reintroducing full scale bombing of the planned December campaign of the liberation forces. Similarly, we cannot allow the U.S. - Saigon regime of Pres. Thieu to illegally hold the 200,000 political prisoners in Saigon jails or destroy the cease-fire agreements by illegal military operations against the PRG. The direct action of our united efforts to force the U.S. to end all aid to the Thieu and Lon Nol regimes and to fully live up to the Jan. 27th peace agreements will have an effect on Nixon!

Implement the Peace Treaty!  
End all aid to Thieu and Lon Nol!  
Stop the bombing of Cambodia!



**"WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON...?"**

# COAL MINERS STRIKE IN HARLAN, KY.



Harlan County, Kentucky has a long history of militant struggle. In 1931, "Evert's Fight" took place in which miners foiled an ambush by company gun thugs during a strike. Five miners and seven guards were killed in the battle. Out of that struggle, Florence Reece wrote the labor song "Which side are you on?: They say in Harlan county, there are no neutrals there, you'll either be a union man or a thug for J.H. Blair."

Five more workers died from company machine-gun fire in 1941; and others died in ones and twos throughout the thirties and forties in battles with gun thugs. Even in this repressive atmosphere for survival, the union and the workers remained strong.

In the fifties, the coal industry ran into trouble and so did the union. Mechanization was allowed to develop without making any provisions for the people thrown out of work. The union leadership became questionable at this time as a result of their lack of concern for the workers and the continual signing of sweet-heart contracts.

The conditions under which people worked and the union itself went steadily down-hill, but the miners militancy continued. In 1965,

there was an unsuccessful strike which was due primarily to weak union backing. Miners were supposed to receive \$25 in weekly strike benefits, but the benefits were sent in cash to district officials who pocketed most of the money.

In 1970, the company forced the workers into a company controlled union. Then on June 26th of this year, the miners voted the company union out, and the United Mine Workers in to represent the. The strike began when Eastover Mining (a subsidiary of Duke Power Co.) refused to grant demands calling for higher wages, an improved medical plan, increased job safety and security, and a seniority system.

In the past months, the coal mine owners and local power structure (particularly the courts) have been making an all-out united effort to crush the union of the United Mine Workers in Harlan.

The Circuit Court judge, Byrd Hogg, issued an injunction limiting the union to three pickets at each entrance to the mine. When supporters organized a picket line of their own, Hogg extended the injunction to the non-union pickets and then charged them with contempt of court.

While the miners had to work ten hours a day for eight hours of pay (the trip in and out of the mine itself does not count) and risk their lives in unsafe conditions, the Duke Power Company raked in more than \$90 million in profits last year. Among Duke's Board of Directors are men who sit as directors of General Motors, J. P. Morgan Co., Burlington Industries, etc.

The strike is the central key in the union organizing effort to better the life of the working people in eastern Kentucky. As Mary Widner, a supporter who was thrown in jail for picketing said: "I don't want to go back to jail, but if it means helping Kentucky and helping my kids, I'll do it; you have to."

Another miner, Jerry Johnson said: "With so many young men, and the backing of the United Mine Workers and the way they've come through, and Duke Power being rich enough to settle with us, I think we'll win. Anyway, when you've got nothing to start with, you've got nothing to lose. And we've seen too much hell in Harlan not to fight this as hard and as long as it takes to win."



Wives of Eastover strikers join the picketline. Miners say their support is key to the strike. "The scabs are more worried about them than us," one striker said.

Mountain Eagle Photo

**"POWs Get The Cake..  
Vietnam Vets  
Lick The Plate!!!"**

# V.A. TAKE- OVER

The Milwaukee Regional Office of the Veterans' Administration (VA) was recently the target of another militant VVAW/WSO "limited incursion." Entering the building chanting "POWs get the cake - Vietnam vets lick the plate," three teams of VVAW/WSO members from the Milwaukee Chapter leafletted all eight floors of the VA Building. After ten minutes of leafletting and chanting, about fifteen members of VVAW/WSO went to the Director's Office to confront him with their demands. The Director was hiding somewhere else in the building at the time, so they decided to stay until he arrived.

It was not until 30 minutes later, when VVAW/WSO had set up a picket line in front of the building that the Director finally agreed to meet with three representatives of VVAW/WSO. The demands presented to the Director were:

- 1) Full benefits for the 560,000 vets with less-than-honorable discharges; 2) Resignation of Donald Johnson, the National Director of the VA, who has asked Congress to cut veterans' benefits; 3) Restoration of all cutbacks in the VA budget for staff, bed space and research money; and 4) A GI Bill



equivalent to the one authorized right after World War II.

During the past three decades, the U.S. Government has sent millions of soldiers around the world to help maintain the economic position it cleverly acquired after World War II. For many of the millions who returned alive, especially from Southeast Asia, their reception was a disgrace. For those wounded, a Purple Heart and an over-crowded, under-staffed VA Hospital; for those on heroin a new drug, methadone; for those with psychological problems (PVS), a denial by the VA that the war was to blame; for those wishing to learn a skill, a GI Bill which does not financially permit a veteran to go to school without personally supplementing the tuition and living expenses; for those looking for a job, nothing but more lines to stand in and forms to fill out.

The action at the VA was successful in reaching many people in the Milwaukee area, especially other veterans' groups. VVAW/WSO is calling on its chapters throughout the country to begin militant demonstrations at local VA offices around the demands made in Milwaukee.

## V.A. goes to the Dogs ANIMALS OR VETS

The veteran and community leaders of Queens County in New York City are presently fighting to get a veteran's hospital. They are proposing that the VA take over the St. Albans Naval Hospital, a 650 bed facility on a 17 acre site.

The veterans of Queens County (340,000) have been asking for a VA hospital for over 25 years. Now that the Defense Department is phasing out St. Albans they feel that it would not take much money to convert this facility.

The community surrounding this hospital has joined the veterans in this fight and together they have been holding demonstrations every Saturday morning for over two mos. St. Albans is a black middle-class residential neighborhood. Their rallying cry is "Vets, Yes! Animals, No!" This stems from a proposal by the Agriculture Department to use the site as a quarantine station for animals coming in from overseas. Even that would be better than some of the other plans for the site. If the federal government does not use it, it reverts back to the state, who has already mentioned that it would like to build a prison there.

The vets and the community want and need this hospital. At present, Queens County has only one bed for every 925 residents. The city-wide average is one bed for every 637 residents. It has been proposed that along with a VA hospital, the city could build a public hospital on the site. There is plenty of room and in this way, both the veterans and the community would be serviced.

The New York City chapter of VVAW/WSO has joined with other veterans organizations, including the VFW, to pressure the government. Good medical care is a birthright of all Americans and converting St. Albans will be one step in providing that care.

For more information, write to: VVAW/WSO, 135 W. 4th St., New York, New York 10014.



Photos: Steve Shapson



# A CHICANO SOLDIER COMES HOME

The nurse at the Veteran's Hospital in Houston walked towards bed #9 in the amputee ward to take Juan in his wheelchair to dinner at the patients dining hall. This was the first time the nurse had ever met Juan. She directed herself to bed #9 and much to her surprise, she discovered a recently-returned 19 year old Vietnam war casualty-- as a triple amputee.

What is so special about Juan? Actually, there is little difference between Juan and thousands of other Chicano veterans. Like others, Juan's family was born in Mexico, yet they moved to this country in hopes of making a better life for themselves.

Juan enlisted in the Army at the age of 17 because as any poor Chicano who either graduates from high school or has to drop out because parents can't afford to give the education as needed, he had to work in the cotton and tomato fields. As in the case of many other young men, the idea of enlistment seemed like a more sensible idea than living from day-to-day on the streets or in the fields. So, why not take the gamble with the greatest benefits? After all, Juan felt that when he returned, he would be able to get something that he didn't have before -- an education on the GI bill. To escape from poverty and to get an education, Juan bargained his two legs and left arm in hopes of achieving his goal.

During his tour in Vietnam, Juan became an effective squad combat leader and earned the respect of his men and superiors. Therefore, he had the responsibility of risking his own life more often by killing human beings he had never met before, all in the name of "freedom, democracy and justice for all."

Juan really believed it, and he had faith in his country.

During the later part of his stay in Vietnam, Juan became worried because for some months his parents never answered any of his mail. Then, 11 days before he completed his tour of duty, Juan's worries temporarily ceased. Waking up in a Saigon hospital, Juan was shocked to learn that he had lost both legs and an arm. Realizing that he can do nothing about his condition, he re-affirms his commitment by saying: "After all, I did it for my country." A few weeks later, he was flown to the states and placed in the veteran's hospital near his hometown in Houston.

After a couple of days at the hospital, Juan began to wonder why his parents had not come to visit him. His VA social worker told him she had been knocking at the door of the address he gave her, but that there was no answer. In order to put his mind at ease, he decided to call Tina, his girlfriend, before she came to visit him in the afternoon. Juan asked Tina to go check about his sister and parents because he hadn't heard anything from them for the last seven months. When Tina began crying, her father picked

up the phone and gave Juan the tragic news. "Your parents were deported some eight months ago by the immigration, and your sister was picked up at work the following day." Juan could no longer listen to Tina's father's explanation because from there, Juan went into deep shock.

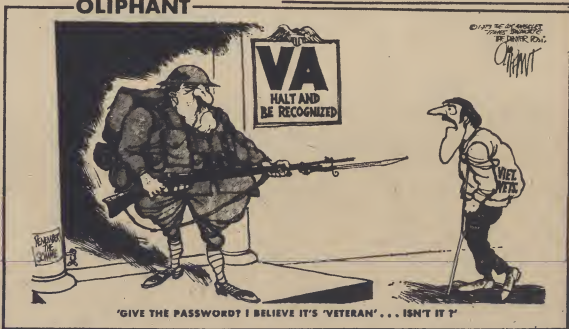
Since the day when Juan learned the truth about his family, he has not yet returned to reality. The awakening to the fact that he had sacrificed his limbs and a normal existence only to return to a society that has no place for him, has taken the life out of this Chicano veteran. Yet the story of Juan is not so unusual. He fought for a country which he was calling his own, firmly believing that he was serving a nation worth fighting for. In doing so, he lost parts of his body; he lost his chances for an education; and he lost his family as a result of exploitive immigration laws. At this time, there is a massive drive by labor contractors in the Southwest to cross the border and recruit Mexican workers with the promises of jobs in U.S. factories. When the work is completed and the contract filled, the immigration department is notified and the workers who are illegally residing in this country are deported.

Juan's gamble for a better life has cost a high price; and Juan has lost the bet. Sadly enough, this is what Juan's life is all about -- and even more pathetically, this is what Juan's country is all about.

The details of Juan's life are taken from "Echo" -- a Chicano newspaper printed in Austin, Texas

\$3.50 a year (24 issues)  
Box 6354 Austin, Texas, 78762

## OLIPHANT



# 1973★ A YEAR of UNITY



Counter-Inaugural, Wash. D.C.



Gainesville 8 Demonstration, Florida

## SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

In past years, VVAW/WSO was primarily concerned with ending the war in Indochina. During 1973, the events that occurred helped VVAW/WSO mature politically and allow for a better understanding of the crimes committed against the people of the world by the US government. With an increased knowledge of the policies of the US government of suppressing the freedom and enforcing military and economic domination of Indochina, Latin America and Africa, VVAW/WSO broadened its activity to reflect the escalation of these crimes. The effects of US imperialism at home and abroad was marked by direct action from chapters across the country.

The year began with the continued war in Indochina and with the signing of the peace agreement for ending the war in Vietnam. Immediately, the US and the Saigon regime violated it, and continue to do so. The US is still bombing Cambodia daily, but is unable to suppress the struggle for independence of the Cambodian people. In Laos, the coalition government that resulted from the signing of their agreement proceeds on shaky ground. Elsewhere around the world, liberation struggles grew in strength while war broke out in the Middle East and a fascist coup overthrew the government in Chile.

At home the American people were subjected to ever increasing repression. We saw the trial of the Gainesville 8 end in victory for the people and the continuing trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner, falsely accused of murdering two policemen. The occupation of Wounded Knee by the American Indian Movement forcefully dramatized the continued abuse of Native Americans by the US government. In addition we witnessed the explosive rebellions in prisons across the country that pointed out the repressive nature of the American system. Political trials continued in a blatant attempt to silence dissent.

Economically, Americans saw the rise in food prices soar out of bounds to frozen wages and witnessed the attempts to destroy the United Farm Workers Union and the sellout of the auto workers by union and company leadership. We learned of the crooked wheat deals and recognized the diversionary scare tactics of the energy crisis.

And more than anything else, the people learned of the bankruptcy of the American system as the disclosures of Watergate toppled numerous cabinet and presidential aides resulting in a growing lack of confidence in the government. The resignation of Spiro Agnew deepened this mistrust of elected officials.

In an effort to help educate Americans to these crimes, VVAW/WSO broadened its base to include non-veterans in order to expand its scope of work, as we continue to support the struggles of the Indochinese peoples.

## INDOCHINA

In January, 5,000 VVAW/WSO members marched in Washington on Inaugural Day demanding that Nixon end the war in Indochina. When the agreement was signed our members pressed for its implementation by the US. Barry Rosen of the National Office travelled around the country talking about the horrors of the December bombings that he lived through in Hanoi. Later in the year, John Naveau returned from Vietnam and spoke of the barbaric conditions under which the Thieu regime is holding 200,000 political prisoners. In California, members demonstrated against Thieu as he visited Nixon at San Clemente. Other demonstrations occurred throughout the year protesting the bombing of Cambodia. In the Fall, VVAW/WSO organized Indochina Solidarity Week in which chapters spoke and leafleted in support of the struggles for independence in Southeast Asia. As long as the war continues, VVAW/WSO is committed to work for an end to it.

## G.I.S

VVAW/WSO military chapters in Japan grew as they demonstrated against the war in Southeast Asia and the American presence in Japan and Okinawa. They participated in marches on Kadena AFB and members were arrested for handing out copies of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. The military declared the Hobbit, (the movement coffeehouse), off limits, but the chapters grew because of it. In the US, VVAW/WSO saw an increase in GI membership through the efforts of the NOSCAM offices in Dayton and Chicago. In a show of solidarity with GIs, chapters participated in GI demonstrations on Armed Forces Day, which helped result in the formation of new chapters aboard the USS JFK and at Ft. Leavenworth.

## PRISONS

The year saw revolts in many prisons. These rebellions brought to public attention the inhuman conditions in prisons forced upon us by a racist judicial system. As a result of this oppression, VVAW/WSO chapters have begun in Leavenworth and Waupun and are forming in Soledad and Lucasville. Members of VVAW/WSO are in many prisons, including Starke, Florida and Otay, Texas. The organization is beginning a national prison project which will attempt to plug into prison struggles around the country. We will do educational and support work in order to aide our imprisoned comrades and inform the American public of the treatment received by them.

## POLITICAL PRISONERS

During the past year the Nixon administration has attacked many groups and individuals who have been against his policies. This repression is intended to silence dissent and, as such, is an attack on all of us. Witness the trial of the Gainesville 8, where VVAW/WSO members were freed on government charges of planning to violently disrupt the Republican



# and of STRUGGLE ★ 1973



Indochina Solidarity Week, Ohio

convention. This people's victory drew the support of many organizations. VVAW/WSO chapters organized demonstrations around the country as well as drawing over 1,000 people to Gainesville. In California, the trial of Gary Lawton and Zarebu Gardner continued with support from VVAW/WSO. As a result of our work, Lawton has joined the organization. Chapters across the country worked for other political prisoners including Pat Chenoweth, Jim Hardy, the Attica brothers, Karl Armstrong, Frederick Stubbs, Carlos Feliciano, Martin Sostre, the San Quentin 6, the Chino defendants and the Wounded Knee defendants. VVAW/WSO will continue to support these cases and others that will inevitably come as the Nixon administration continues its policies of repression.

## SUPPORT WORK

The struggle of Third World People has intensified during 1973. Two VVAW/WSO national projects are in support of the Black communities of Cairo, Illinois and Bogue Chitto, Alabama. In Cairo, chapters continue to support, with convoys of food and clothing, the three year old boycott of racist businesses that have exploited the Black community. In Bogue Chitto, VVAW/WSO is working with community people in setting up a clinic to provide medical aid for residents. When AIM occupied Wounded Knee, chapters again responded with supplies and participated in demonstrations around the country in support of their just demands. Another struggle which has received VVAW/WSO support is that of the predominantly Chicano United Farm Workers Union that has been attempting to unionize these exploited workers. VVAW/WSO has joined in picket lines and boycotts to show solidarity with their efforts. VVAW/WSO will continue to support the struggles of Third World People.

## AMNESTY

VVAW/WSO, long committed to universal and unconditional amnesty, began a national program for amnesty. Programs were begun to upgrade less than honorable discharges that veterans received for their opposition to the war and to the racism and oppression of the military. One of our demands is to upgrade all these discharges to a universal one. Community work and demonstrations were organized by chapters in order to bring the issue of amnesty and resistance to the war in Indochina to the prominence it requires. This amnesty is for all war resisters.

## VETERANS

In February, the VA announced that it was asking for cuts in veteran's benefits. This attack on veterans has long, historical roots in the US. In New York City, members went to hearings on veteran's problems and confronted the panel with the truth about VA failure to meet the needs of vets. In Milwaukee, VVAW/WSO took over the VA office to point out the



Veterans Day, Chicago

continuing plight of veterans. Chapters across the country set up PVS groups to counter the ineffectiveness of the VA in dealing with vet's problems on returning to the US after fighting for 'freedom' only to learn that this was a lie. VVAW/WSO is committed to continue to work for all veterans.

## WATERGATE

As the Watergate disclosures were made, it was learned that VVAW/WSO was the target of illegal surveillance and infiltration by police provocateurs. To counter this, chapters spoke out to expose the corruption forced on America. Demonstrations occurred in towns and cities and VVAW/WSO participated in them. As Nixon attempts to subvert investigations into Watergate, VVAW/WSO has joined in calling for the impeachment of the biggest criminal in this nation's history.

## INTERNATIONAL

As VVAW/WSO develops into a strong force for peace and justice it also develops strong ties with liberation forces around the world. During the past year, members attended meetings in Rome, Paris, Berlin, Tokyo and Moscow, and met with representatives of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Korea as well as with representatives of liberation struggles in Africa and Latin America. These meetings gave us the opportunity to learn of the struggles against imperialism that are being waged in the world today. VVAW/WSO stands in support of these struggles and these meetings have helped chapters inform the people of the continuing crimes of the American government in exploiting countries around the world.

\* \* \*

In all, 1973 has been a year of political maturity for the organization. Our world outlook has sharpened and we can better deal with the problems created at home by a government that is concerned with the interests of the rich rather than the welfare of the working people. VVAW/WSO is dedicated to changing the political, social and economic institutions that have burdened and exploited the American people for generations. As we approach 1974 we will use the experience given us in 1973 and will make our impression on this country even more forceful. But we know that it will take much more work and more determined efforts on our parts to topple the criminal elements that make it necessary for our organization to exist.

## UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

# Vietnam Veterans Against the War Winter Soldier Organization

## Regional Offices

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4753 - 18th Ave. NE, #65  
Seattle, Washington 98105 25

### ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI

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### CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

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### CONNECTICUT-RHODE ISLAND

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### IDAHO-MONTANA

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### TEXAS

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Austin, Texas 78711

### E. PENNSYLVANIA-DELAWARE

**N. NEW JERSEY**  
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Harrisburg, Penna. 17102  
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### OHIO-INDIANA-KENTUCKY-WEST

VIRGINIA - W. PA. - MICHIGAN  
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### WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA

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### NEW YORK-N. NEW JERSEY

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Buffalo, New York 14215  
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### LOUISIANA

VVAW/WSO  
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LSU-NO Lake Front -  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122  
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### KANSAS-W. MISSOURI-NORTH

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VVAW/WSO  
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Kansas City, Missouri 64111  
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### NATIONAL OFFICE

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Chicago, Illinois 60657  
(312) 935-2129

## Project Offices

### GARY LAWTON DEFENSE COMM

c/o RFPDC  
PO Box 515  
San Bernardino, California 92412

### OPERATION POLICE FAIR

see Alabama-Miss. Tenn.

### AMNESTY CLEARINGHOUSE

see National Office

### POST VIETNAM SYNDROME

CLEARINGHOUSE  
see Wisconsin-Minnesota

### NOSCAM (National GI Office)

PO Box 1625  
Dayton, Ohio 45401  
(513) 274-3171

# WHAT IS VVAW/WSO

Vietnam Veterans Against the War began in 1967 in New York City when six anti-war veterans marched in a demonstration under the banner "Vietnam Veterans Against the War." This first public action was followed by many more in the years to come.

Operation Rapid American Withdrawal (RAW) was a forced march by 150 vets from Trenton, N.J. to Valley Forge. This march, in the fall of 1970, was one of the earliest national VVAW actions. Along the march route vets conducted mock "search and destroy" missions, interrogation of prisoners, and other lessons well learned in Vietnam. During Operation RAW the original objectives of VVAW were formulated.

The trial of Lt. Calley was a major force behind convening the Winter Soldier Investigation into American War Crimes committed in Southeast Asia. This investigation, held in Detroit in January 1971, saw over 150 veterans testifying about war crimes they had committed. The message to the American people was clear: My Lai was not an aberration but the calculated result of American imperialistic policy in Vietnam. Several congressional inquiries, a book, and 3 documentary movies came out of the WSI.

With the spring of 1971 came Dewey Canyon III, a limited incursion into the halls of Congress. Dewey Canyon I and II had taken place in Southeast Asia without the knowledge or consent of the American people; VVAW was now determined to be heard. For a week, members of VVAW lobbied with Congressmen, testified in hearings, performed guerrilla theater, and engaged the people of Washington, D.C. in a continuing dialogue. On Friday, 1100 vets returned the medals they had been awarded by the government for military service. This was

the final break, and the return of the medals signified the ultimate act of revulsion for what these medals stood for.

The summer of 1971 saw a general lull in anti-war activity the country over. VVAW began to move in a new direction -- into our communities. We began the process of learning that the war was only a symptom, that as long as the American economic structure could profit from the exploitation of working and third people at home and around the world, wars like Vietnam would continue. During all of this, however, we did not forget about the war. Christmas, 1971, found 16 members of VVAW holding the Statue of Liberty captive. The war was again front page news.

VVAW took part in actions at both the Democratic and Republican conventions. Our demonstrations there were both legal and peaceful. We went to Miami Beach with the people's most dangerous weapon, the truth -- and to prevent the people from hearing that truth, the government had to use spies, infiltrators, and agents to provoke violence.

When Coronation (Inauguration) Day 1973 arrived, VVAW again returned to Washington. Over 5,000 people strong, we marched, signed the 9-point peace agreement with the Vietnamese people, and returned to our communities.

The signing of the peace treaty by our government has left us with no illusions about the future. We were the sailors in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964, and there are brothers and sisters in the military today who may well be participants in a future Gulf of Tonkin incident. We have learned that only a radical change in the system of this country can possibly prevent the wars of the future.

As we learned what was behind the Vietnam War, and as we went into our communi-

ties to work, we found people who agreed with our objectives but who were not veterans (though all Americans are in fact Vietnam veterans). To broaden our base of membership, we added "Winter Soldier Organization" to our name to become the present Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization.

### WHAT IS VVAW/WSO DOING TODAY?

National projects of VVAW/WSO include work in military counseling, securing unconditional amnesty for the American victims of the Indochina War (exiles, draft and military resisters, people with less-than-honorable discharges), volunteer work in VA hospitals, setting up rap groups to help our brothers and sisters with Post-Vietnam Struggle (PVS), building and staffing a medical clinic in Bogus Chitto, Alabama, and supporting the United Front of Cairo, Illinois. Local chapters work on various community projects and almost every chapter is involved in work around political prisoners and repression in the community.

### HOW IS VVAW/WSO OPERATED?

The most basic and important participant in the operation of VVAW/WSO is the individual member. The members elect chapter coordinators or representatives who are responsible for the local operation. Each chapter is represented at Regional meetings which are held at least four times a year. Each region is the responsibility of a regional coordinator or regional collective. Regions are represented on the National Steering Committee, a group that meets three times a year to formulate policy for the organization. The regional representatives elect the national collective. This collective operates the VVAW/WSO national office and serves as the functional head of the organization between national steering committee meetings.

### HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

There is one basic requirement for membership in VVAW/WSO: agreement with the ten objectives and a willingness to work toward their implementation. To join, contact the national office or your regional address as listed above.





# Vietnam Veterans Against the War

## Winter Soldier Organization

### Objectives



1. To demand an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, planes, and military and economic aid from Southeast Asia. We cannot allow one more human being to be killed in Southeast Asia. We support as a basis for the cessation of these hostilities the various peace proposals of the People of Southeast Asia or such future plans as they develop based upon their right of self-determination and actual control of their own destinies.

2. To demand the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States Government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. This includes the maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination, and the theft of the natural resources of other countries. The United States should make reparations in a program acceptable to the Indochinese for all of the damage done by the United States.

3. To demand that all active-duty servicemen and women, reservists and national guardsmen be afforded the same rights that are guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights that are presently denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We are appalled that our active-duty GIs are treated as less than first class citizens. We endorse the efforts of our active-duty sisters and brothers in their struggle to democratize the military.

4. To support all military personnel refusing to serve against their consciences in wars at home and abroad. We demand that Congress enact legislation for the immediate repatriation of those brothers and sisters who are in prison or in self-exile by reason of their refusal to serve in the military. It must also involve an end to all repression and a freeing of all political prisoners.

5. To demand there be no distinctions as to types of discharges and that a single type of discharge be issued, and that this be retroactive. We also demand all veterans receive all rights and benefits under the VA; and that compensation for disabilities be based solely upon the degree of disability for veterans and their families, without regard to sex, race, rank or length of service.

6. To make clear that the United States has never undertaken an extensive, open investigation of American war crimes in Indochina. In its war in Indochina, the principles of Nuremberg have been violated. An active-duty and former GI, we recognize the responsibility and guilt of the individual soldier to refrain from committing war crimes. We also recognize that the

responsibility and guilt of war crimes committed in the name of America lies with our policy makers at all levels.

7. Resolved to fight racism, to show Americans that our society is permeated by racism, which manipulates whites into viewing non-whites as inferior or less than human. This racism pushes Third World People through inferior schools to inferior jobs and into combat arms. Thus Third World People are sent off to die in disproportionately high numbers as we kill Asians indiscriminately. We also demand the US military recognize its complicity in America's domestic and international racism.

8. Resolved to fight sexism, to show that sexism plays a major part in promoting war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which forces an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subservient sexual objects, and which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This institutionalized sexism channels women into unfulfilling, lower paying jobs which are servile in nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of morality wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining servicewomen as subordinate and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization and within ourselves.

9. To support the democratic right of Americans to unionize and strike to protect their income and safeguard their employment. We consider all legislation designed to suppress these rights, including mandatory arbitration, to be illegal and not in the interests of the American working people. We also demand full employment for all Americans, including free educational and vocational training for all who need or want it. We refuse to participate in the efforts being made to separate us from other working people, making veterans enemies by giving us the charade of employment priority. We condemn this as a method of encouraging enlistment by the false promise of employment after service. We also condemn the use of active-duty GIs, reservists and national guardsmen as strikebreakers.

10. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW/WSO is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic, social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.

# SUBSCRIBE!!

## GIVE: WINTER SOLDIER

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC.  
827 W. NEWPORT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60657

# VVAW-WSO

## 827 W Newport.

### Chicago, Illinois 60657

### tel.(312)935-2129

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to Join VVAW/WSO

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an active-duty GI

\_\_\_\_\_ I am currently in prison

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support  
your group

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# GIS CONTINUE

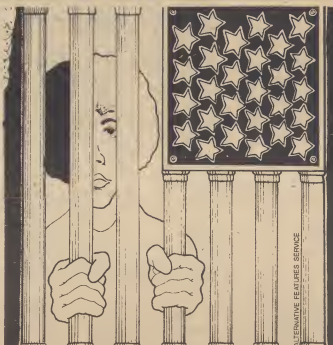
## Black G.I. Railroaded

(Chicago) Melvin Smith, a 24-year-old black Vietnam veteran, is facing murder charges in connection with a 1971 killing of a white seargent in Vietnam. Smith has already been court-martialed and convicted once on the charges; right now he is sitting in Fort Leavenworth awaiting a second trial. If he doesn't get support, and lots of it, soon, he will spend the rest of his life in prison--for a killing that happened because Smith got hurt in Quang Tri.

Smith was with the 54th Ord. Co., 26th Gen. Support Group at Quang Tri in 1971. He was a quiet, easygoing man who was generally well-liked and who had no record of any kind of trouble-making or militancy. In April of 1971, a dear friend of his died at Quang Tri, and Smith was badly shaken up; when he saw the body, he tried to revive his friend, giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and begging his friend to wake up. Later that day, Smith fell off a 30-foot observation tower onto his head, suffering grave head injuries. He went to the dispensary, but somehow they never got around to X-raying his head. They gave him first aid and sent him back to duty.

But on May 7, 1971, Smith walked into the mess hall at 12 noon and shot and killed a white first sergeant and wounded two other men. He then went into his hooch; shots were heard, and he was found with multiple bullet wounds. He was evacuated back to the States, where eventually doctors at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital found him to be suffering from extreme schizophrenia and brain damage.

So he gets a discharge for a service-connected disability and is put in a VA hospital, right? No, not for a black man. He was yanked out of Fitzsimmons, against his doctor's orders, and sent to Da Nang, where he spent five months in a 4' x 6' isolation



cell, without decent medical care. He was dragged through a sham sanity board, who decided there wasn't anything wrong with him to prevent trial, and court-martialed in 1972. He was found guilty, despite the testimony of psychiatrists and psychologists, and sentenced to life at Leavenworth. He has been there all this time; his wounds never healed completely, and at the moment he is suffering from a massive re-infection and osteomyelitis (in plain terms, his ribs are disintegrating. If he doesn't have surgery, it will kill him in time.)

Smith won a re-trial on a technicality in September. His lawyers are desperately trying to get a new sanity board hearing, in the hopes of reversing the original ruling. If that fails, he will be tried again at Leavenworth in December or January.

This brother is one of eight children from a poor black family in Chicago. He has a young wife and a two-year-old son whom he has barely met. He is sick. And he doesn't have any money to pay for his defense. The Army wants to get him. It is up to his friends fellow GIs and Vietnam vets, and other people who want to see justice done, to stop the Army.

Melvin X. Smith needs three things: (1) Petitions demanding his release, back pay, and disability payments; (2) Publicity to scare off the Army; (3) Money to pay for tracking down witnesses, getting new psychiatric evidence, and legal fees.

NOSCAM-Chicago is coordinating the defense campaign. If you can give money or time, let us know. Without it, the war will claim yet another victim.  
FREE MELVIN X. SMITH!!!!

News on these pages was compiled by NOSCAM, the VVAW/WSO National Office GI Project. This office coordinates active-duty chapters, new VVAW/WSO members and chapters, GI news, and all other GI Movement activities. Contact one of the NOSCAM offices for more information:

NOSCAM-Chicago, 2743 N. Wilton  
Chicago, Ill. 60614 (312) 929-1958  
(evenings only)

NOSCAM-Dayton, PO Box 1625,  
Dayton, Ohio 45401, (513) 274-3171

## G.I. Resigns in Germany

(Baumhalder, West Germany) On Oct. 17, 1973, PV2 Tom Steinhelper decided he had had enough and resigned from the Army. In his statement, he gave some of his reasons: "I do not feel that the man who has been placed in charge of the American people, that is, President Nixon, is capable of exercising that power in an honest way. Therefore, I do not think it right to work, even indirectly, with a dishonest man who, I think, only wishes to use the American people. I cannot support a government that supplies weapons, ammunition, and funds to the Portuguese for the genocide of thousands of innocent Black people in Mozambique. This is outright racism and I could not live with myself if I was to support the organization or government that is responsible for genocide."

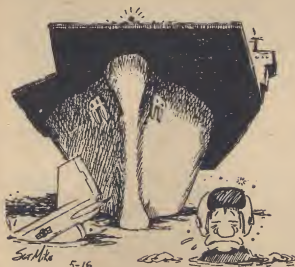
Tom has been threatened with punishment, but no thing has happened so far, despite the fact that he has refused to wear his uniform shave, or work since he quit. He



# THE STRUGGLE

has been involved in some organizing work. At Patten Barracks, also in Germany, he reported that "Four of our black comrades had been beaten up by about 10 armed MPs with nightsticks. It almost caused a riot between Black and white brothers and sisters, but just when fighting was about to explode, about 150 brothers and sisters got together and chose a delegation to see Gen. Michael Davison, commander of US Army Europe. We demanded to see him; about 2 hours later we were allowed to talk to him. We told him that we wanted race relations and drug programs to be in the hands of the EMs, because they are the only people affected by these programs and therefore are best equipped to deal with them. After about 45 minutes, Davison finally gave in and told us that if we could write up a program that would be acceptable to him and his staff, he would consider it. Although we don't see much chance of anything being acceptable to him, we do consider it a major victory in forcing him at least to talk to us. The real victors are the people who proved that, combined, their minds are stronger than all the threats the brass could hand out! **POWER TO THE PEOPLE!**"

With Sgt. Mike



"HEY, LIEUTENANT -- THERE WUZ A SLIGHT MISCALCULATION -- TH' WIND WUZ 30 DEGREES FROM TH' EAST... NOT TH' WEST."

## FLAREUPS IN THE FLEET

Brothers in the Navy are starting to fight back against the unbelievably bad conditions they are forced to work in. VVAW/WSO chapters are springing up all over the fleet, and there have been some really good actions. Listen to what the brothers are saying:

(From a brother on the DULUTH) "About 3 months ago the mess cooks staged a sitdown strike in protest of all the bullshit they had been getting from the brass in the past. The claims of the brass were that the mess decks weren't clean enough and that the men were doing a lousy job. So they secured the mess cooks' liberty. So the cooks went on strike because: (1) How can you keep the mess decks spotless when they are the work center of the ship? (2) We have a "green" crew, and every man seems to work for 6 different bosses and gets a new order every time he turns around, so nothing gets done and then they get the blame; (3) We had just gotten some Marines on board and their attitude did not aid morale with their griping and throwing of food on the decks and the plates. As soon as the mess cooks formed a "union," the Executive Officer (who speaks with very forked tongue) came down and "promised" cooperation if the men would go back to work and clean the place up as much as possible.

"In August we were sent off the coast of Cambodia (we were not supposed to tell. Everyone but the American people knows this-- WAKE UP AMERICA!!), for "evacuation" purposes. I'd like to know how we were supposed to evacuate with tanks, cannons, and mortars along with a couple of thousand Marines! Mail star-



ted coming in only once a week, there was very little time off, and the officers began inventing watches for people to stand. The mood grew blacker as we stayed on the line for 32 days.

"Now the enlisted people are starting to kick the shit back where it belongs by putting various first-class POs, COs, and division officers on report for infractions of regulations and filing Article 138 complaints--they work! The gears are in motion and we're starting to gain momentum. Wish us luck. **SOLIDARITY!!!**"

(USS KENNEDY) "Well, the pigs are really coming down hard on us now. After we held our 1st meeting of the VVAW/WSO chapter here, someone went and told the Chief Master at Arms all about it and now they know who the organizers are. The Master at Arms and his 'sidekick' interrogated me for over 3 1/2 hours about VVAW/WSO and tried to scare me by threatening to fine us \$100 for everyone who got caught at a meeting. The Executive Officer called me into his office and said that if we hold another meeting with the commanding officer's permission, he will personally bust us good. **UNITY IS WHAT WE NEED!!!**"

There's a lot going on all around the fleet, from VVAW/WSO chapters forming to educational campaigns to strikes. We hope to hear more from brothers in the fleet in the future, especially from those who are still on alert in the Mediterranean due to the Mideast war. The alert is still on for them.

**UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY**

# NEWS BRIEFS



## COVERED WAGON COFFEEHOUSE BURNS DOWN

(Mountain Home, Idaho) The building used for the Covered Wagon Coffeehouse, a GI organizing and counseling center near Mountain Home AFB, burned to the ground on Tuesday, November 13th. Organizers there stated that it was a total loss, including all files, counseling materials, library, printing press, 5 typewriters, darkroom and kitchen equipment; but they did not suspect arson, as was the case when it burned in November, 1971. Organizers ask that office supplies, back issues of newspapers and magazines, counseling materials and money be sent to: Covered Wagon, P.O. Box 729, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647 (208) 587-7474.



## KARL ARMSTRONG SENTENCED

(Madison, Wisconsin) Karl Armstrong was sentenced to twenty three years imprisonment in Waupun State Prison in Wisconsin on November 1st. Judge Sacchten ordered concurrent terms of fifteen years on each of four counts of arson, ten years on possession of explosives and twenty three years on the second degree murder charge for the death of Prof. Robert Fasnacht. The sentencing marks an end to the trial in which Karl pleaded guilty to the bombing of the Army Math Research Center at the Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison in August, 1970. Karl had been in exile in Canada before being extradited by Canadian authorities.



## AIM LEADER MURDERED

(Pine Ridge Reservation, S.D.) Pedro Bissonette, a leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and key figure in the Wounded Knee occupation earlier this year, was killed here on Oct. 17th, while on his way to see his attorney Mark Lane. Bissonette, who was a major defense witness for the up coming Wounded Knee Trial, was shot in the chest seven times with a .38 caliber pistol by BIA police.



## WOUNDED KNEE TRIALS FINALLY IN VIEW

(Rapids City, S.D.) The trials for those people indicted as a result of the reclaiming of Wounded Knee as an independent nation have finally received court dates. The trial of Russell Means and Dennis Banks has been set to begin on Jan. 8th in St. Paul, Minnesota. Means and Banks have been charged with 11 counts of aiders and abettors in assault, arson, burglary and larceny and as conspirators among the six leading figures in the Wounded Knee siege. The trials for the other four leaders -- Carter Camp, Leonard Crowdog, Clyde Bellecourt and Stan Holder -- are scheduled to follow close at hand, with March 1st tentatively set for the trial's beginning. At the same time, a possible 107 federal cases are scheduled for trial in June. The first 19 cases are scheduled to begin January 2nd.



## VVAW/WSO BUSTED IN YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

(Yokosuka, Japan) On October 15th, two sailors off the attack carrier, USS MIDWAY, were arrested for distributing Freedom of the Press, a publication of the Yokosuka chapter of VVAW/WSO. They were sentenced to correctional duty (the bribe) for violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Disobedience of a Direct Order. The order prohibits all military personnel from involvement in assemblies, demonstrations, originating and distributing of any printed matter without prior command approval.



## WINTER SOLDIER

# CONT. ...NIXON

got away with this by using a \$500,000 tax write-off for his personal Vice-Presidential notes on the advice of the nation's second biggest criminal, Democrat Lyndon Johnson. Indeed, there is no scarcity of such "penny ante" crimes to tag Dick with.



The larger crimes, the ones that the Congress and the courts are not trying to tag Nixon with, are so much more vicious and insidious as to totally overshadow the relatively petty-thievery and graft brought to light by Watergate. These crimes are the programmatic attacks on the poor and working people of the United States. Nixon's Phases I, II, III, and IV are classic examples of his economic attack on the people of this country. What he did was to utilize the weapon of wage controls, of keeping wages down and prices up, to allow the rich to maintain their profits and rob the American people. It is no accident that wages have so miserably failed to keep pace with the ever-rising cost of food, housing and transportation.

Politically, Nixon was trying to lead the United States down the path of fascism in an attempt to consolidate his administration's political and economic strangle-hold on the American people. It is Dick Nixon we must thank for the fascist Stop and Frisk laws, the No-Knock laws, the thousands of undercover spies and agent-provocateurs who have infiltrated everything from VVAW/WSO to Senator Muskie's campaign staff. He is the one who masterminded the Hitleresque new Criminal Code Reform Bill, the LEAA programs and their Pavlovian behavior modification systems now used in our prisons and schools. In short, he is the one that is responsible for the "law and order campaign" waged against the American people for the past five years; the results of which can be measured in the burgeoning number of political trials, the dead students at Kent and Jackson States, and the murdering of political activists such as George Jackson and Fred Hampton.

Internationally, the enormity of Nixon's crimes, the crimes of US imperialism, can be measured in the hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs dropped on the peoples of Indochina, and of the six million victims created as a result. It can be measured in the 200,000 political prisoners kept in Thieu's prisons. It can be seen in the fascist governments put into power and maintained

by the Nixon administration as in Saigon, Cambodia, Chile, Uruguay, and Bolivia. It can be seen in the support of racism and apartheid in Rhodesia and South Africa. It has resulted in the miserable lives of hundreds of millions of people living in the Third World countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America--lives that have been systematically ruined by the impoverishment forced on them by the economic exploitation of their countries by US business interests.

Kicking Nixon out of office will strike a blow against these crimes of imperialism. It will slow down the move to fascism that Nixon's policies were leading to. It will emphatically tell the bosses of this country that the American people do not favor their policies of war, racism, oppression, and exploitation both at home and abroad. It will make clear to the Rockefellers, Fords and DuPonts that the American people are going to fight back against their corrupt system. They will not be allowed to ride rough-shod over us any longer.

Nixon and his gang of thieves are totally on the defensive now, as witnessed by the PR junkets into "safe" Nixon territory of the South, and the incredible "I'm no crook" TV press conference. The public has had it with Nixon. Two days after Nixon was forced to back down and hand over the doctored tapes, the House Judiciary Committee received some 10,000 "impeach him anyway" telegrams. Now is the time for the American people to fight back. We cannot depend on Congress to do it for us, we must do it ourselves. We must band together and rise up in unison and scream "Kick Nixon Out!"



# REPRESSION & REBELLION STARKE —

On October 27th, approximately 100 people marched 38 miles from Gainesville, Fla. to the Florida State Prison at Starke. The purpose of the action was to bring public attention to the inhuman living conditions and prevailing racism present at Starke. The action was co-sponsored by VVAW/WSO, African Peoples Socialist Party, Tampa Social Collective and the Anti-Imperialist Union.

Responses to the march were positive and by the time the marchers reached the prison, another 100 people had joined the demonstration. The marchers circled the Starke/Raiford institution and then proceeded to the black community in Starke where they rallied and speeches were given. Even after marching for nearly 12 hours, the rally was filled with an atmosphere of unity and solidarity with the struggle going on behind the Starke walls.

The city of Starke had warned the marchers that if they persisted in conducting this action, they would be arrested upon entrance to the town, but the "threats" were unfounded and the demonstration came off without a hitch. As Joe Waller (African Peoples Socialist Party) put it: "The police warnings didn't stop us. We are here and will be here from now on and the brothers should

unite together in the struggle to free the oppressed people in our prisons today."

VVAW/WSO began doing educational and agitational work around the situation at Starke early this year. The inmates have been plagued with such blatantly racist policies that they were forced to resort to outright rebellion. On April 30th, four prison officials attacked one of the inmates working in the garment factory and fellow factory workers came to the beaten inmate's defense. 41 inmates (all black) were "rounded up" in connection with this incident and thrown into segregation while being investigated. Out of the 41, 14 have been charged with arson, assault, and riot. The remainder of the 41 inmates remain in confinement, yet they have not been charged. None of the 41 are guilty of anything other than saying "No" to the oppression permeating their lives.

Again on August 5th, the inmates stood up for their rights, and the prison experienced a rebellion by nearly half the inmate population. Even the prison officials have admitted that the cause of the disturbance was racial. The inmates also maintain that the disturbance was due to racial conflict, but that conflict is not among inmates -- it is between inmates and the tyrannical rule of the prison administrators.

The Starke inmates are now trying to get their struggle into the courts, in hopes that justice will be done and the living conditions in Starke made decent. They have recently released an inmate document, the Florida State Prisoners' Manifesto of Demands and Platform. This manifesto begins with the lines: "We the inmates of Florida State Prison come united to change inhuman and brutal conditions that are now maintained and imposed by the administrators of the Florida Department of Corrections." The manifesto goes on to demand such things as adequate medical care, release of inmates in administrative confinement, Constitutional legal representation, fair wages for labor, an inmate legal committee to handle legal needs, rights to order and receive literature, an unbiased parole system, an end to medical research being done on inmates, and a biracial committee set up to investigate the living conditions within the prison.

The fight for legal and human rights which is going on in Starke is, in reality, no different from the struggles of inmates being held in prisons around the country. However, the "battle" going on inside Starke is becoming particularly intensified. The brothers need your support if their manifesto is to be implemented, and they need funds to cover expenses for the upcoming trials of the 14 indicted inmates and to get their legal complaints into the courts. The Raiford Legal Defense Fund has been established by VVAW/WSO and will handle the defense of these brothers. The much needed funds and letters of support should be sent to: P.O. Box 122, Gainesville, Florida 32601.





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